

SOCIAL News Letter ACTION

Vol. XI, No. 11



Indianapolis, Indiana

November, 1947

PROTESTANTS TO DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

On October 13 some 60 Protestant leaders from all sections of the country met in Washington under the chairmanship of Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam to discuss steps to be taken to maintain the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state and to resist efforts to get public money for sectarian purposes, such as free textbooks and bus transportation for religious schools. Efforts of the Roman Catholic Church in many areas to secure tax funds for the support of their parochial schools while maintaining control over them has given rise to the Protestant opposition movement. The situation is highlighted by court decisions which seem to break down the wall of separation between church and state under the guise of rendering social services to all citizens alike. The Oregon free textbook case and the Supreme Court decision in the New Jersey school bus case, together with the recent troubles in the College Hill, Ohio, board of education are indicative of trends. Reported threats to defeat the federal aid to education program unless it includes support for religious schools is also a factor in the determination of the Protestant group to take positive steps to maintain the integrity of public education.

DEMAND RECALL OF VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. J. M. Dawson, executive secretary of a joint committee of Baptist bodies, who served as secretary of the meeting, told reporters, "We are interested only in resisting any encroachment on the American doctrine of separation of church and state, which we believe involves religious liberty." The group issued a statement calling upon "all Americans who profess allegiance to Protestantism, Judaism, or any other religious faith, and those who though professing no church allegiance believe in the American form of government, to join in demanding that legislatures and executives and courts shall defend the constitution against all efforts to subvert it." The group also reaffirmed its demand that President Truman keep his promise made more than a year ago to a committee of religious leaders that he would recall Myron C. Taylor, his "personal representative with the rank of ambassador," from the Vatican when the treaty with Italy was signed.

NO "ANTI-CATHOLIC" CRUSADE

Strong emphasis was laid upon the fact that no "anti-Catholic" crusade is contemplated. With the religious functions of the Roman Catholic Church the group declared it had no concern. Its only motive is to maintain the separation of church and state in the United States and to maintain the integrity of the American public school system from sectarian encroachment.

NOT OPPOSED TO WELFARE PROGRAM

Some have pointed out that health

"I WAS HUNGRY AND YE FED ME . . ."

Mrs. Ruth D. Estes

(Note: Mrs. Estes, national director of the Church and Community Service of the Department of Social Welfare, is on temporary leave to set up the CROP of Church World Service, Inc.)

The Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) now has six field men working in the wheat states on collection of grain for overseas shipment and conversion into relief cereals. These men are receiving the active cooperation of state councils of churches, grain elevator men, and farm organizations. Carloads of wheat are now moving toward shipping points.

Dennis Anderson, of New Castle, Indiana, a Disciple and a member of the First Christian Church of New Castle, has been appointed CROP field representative for Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, where he will supervise solicitation of gifts of farm products for overseas relief. Mr. Anderson is a former county attorney of his county and has worked for the American Friends Service Committee.

Some 200 goats have been shipped from the West Coast to Okinawa. These animals were contributed in response to a request of Dr. Kagawa for milk goats for Japan. They were secured through the efforts of the Heifer Project Committee and transportation was furnished by the U. S. Army.

Recently 25 Holstein bulls were presented to the Japanese government in an official ceremony. These animals were likewise secured through the efforts of the Heifer Project Committee and will be used to aid in the rehabili-

TAFT CALLS CHURCHES TO ACTION IN FOOD CRISIS

Charles P. Taft, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, has issued the following Message to the Churches in connection with President Truman's program of voluntary food conservation to aid the world food crisis:

"The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has called for bold and vigorous action by the United States to meet the overseas food crisis this winter. There are widespread doubts that the measures thus far proposed by the government will be sufficient to assure the sending of available relief supplies in time. I believe, however, that church people should not wait for a perfected government program. The food crisis does not tarry. It is imperative that our churches seize the moral initiative to make the most of the voluntary program now put forward.

"The President's Committee has proposed a number of ways whereby individuals and families can reduce the direct or indirect waste and consumption of wheat and grain supplies in general. I urge our church people not only to accept these measures as a moral obligation but also to consider additional steps to conserve the bread-stuffs which spell the difference between death and life for men, women and children abroad. Let us impose on ourselves meatless and wheatless days and use more vegetables and fruit. Let us make our church suppers occasions for practicing self-denial. Let us set an example in the community to which all men of goodwill will respond.

"Sharing our food with hungry people overseas does not involve injury to the health of our people. It does require self-discipline. It does require understanding, sympathy and determination. What better opportunity could we ask for, to make a personal contribution to world relief today and world peace tomorrow. I would like to place this personal responsibility, this opportunity for Christian service upon the conscience of every member of our churches."

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

Published monthly, except for joint July-August issue, by the Department of Social Welfare, The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

Subscription price 50 cents per year.

Entered as second class mail matter September 2, 1943, at Indianapolis, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

The opinions and points of view expressed in this publication are those of the editors and do not necessarily represent the convictions of The United Christian Missionary Society.

UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR DELEGATION FILLED

About the time this issue of *Social Action News-Letter* reaches its readers 100 local, state and national leaders of the Disciples of Christ will be gathered in New York City for a three-day seminar at the headquarters of the United Nations.

Announced early in September, the response was immediate and gratifying. Before the middle of October more applications had been received than could be accommodated. Because of limitations of hotel accommodations and of conference space at U.N. headquarters the delegation had to be held to 100. All applicants above that number are being informed that their applications will be filed and places provided if and as cancellations are received.

The program as it stands at the time of going to press includes an orientation session on Monday night, November 3, led by Dr. Louis Dolivet, author of "The United Nations" and international editor of *The United Nations World*. On Tuesday the group will leave the hotel at 9 a.m. in chartered busses for Lake Success where they will be met by members of the U.N. secretariat and oriented further as to procedure and the activities of various organs and commissions. They will then be assigned to visit such of the sessions as are open to the public at that time.

At the end of the day busses will take the group directly to Riverside Church where opportunity will be given to see this great cathedral. Dinner will be served at the church with Dr. John Bennett and Dr. Guy Emery Shippler as discussion leaders. On Wednesday the group will again go to Lake Success and Flushing Meadows where John Foster Dulles and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt have promised to address them if their U.N. duties permit. The day will be spent observing the work of varied U.N. agencies.

At night the entire company will attend "Born Yesterday," a play of considerable social significance at the Lyceum Theatre. On Thursday the

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

Robert Fangmeier

The following generally "off-the-record" opinions relative to universal military training are expressed by those "in the know" around Washington:

☞ The War Department expects the international situation to become so serious that the Towe Bill for Universal Military Training will pass Congress easily. Military officials are not anxious to have the measure considered at a special session, although American Legion pressure may bring this about.* They would prefer to have the bill considered when the international situation is ripe.

☞ It is said that one group within the State Department is gambling on the United States becoming involved in a shooting episode in Greece within six months.

☞ The Senate Republican Policy Committee is said to be working on an alternative to UMT. Report has it that George C. Smith, assistant to Senator Taft, has developed a program of training under civilian direction. It is said to include disaster training units, and similar projects. The American Veterans Committee say they will support such a program if it is voluntary.

☞ The House is said to be less favorable to UMT than the Senate. The present situation is said to be that one-third of the House is for the Towe Bill, one-third against it, and one-third unde-

sessions of review and evaluation will be held at the Park Avenue Christian Church, where lunch will be served. The seminar will close at noon with a service of devotion, to permit delegates to leave by afternoon and evening trains.

The delegation represents a cross-section of the life of the brotherhood, including the Pacific Northwest, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Iowa, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Kentucky, as well as the section of the Mid-West nearer to New York. The CYF will have seven representatives and the student groups two. Several colleges will be represented by faculty or staff members. Among the delegates will be leading pastors, religious educators, youth workers, and local church leaders. These persons will later serve as resource persons in the World Order phases of the Crusade for a Christian World, especially in setting up regional workshops and local Church institutes and as leaders of study groups in youth and adult conferences.

cided. Speaker Joseph Martin is quoted as opposed to the bill. In conversation with a representative of one of the organizations opposed to the bill, Mr. Martin said, "If we can get the American-Russian situation off our backs we can defeat UMT. The pressure for UMT is from outside Congress and not from within." It is believed that while Martin is against the bill, he cannot be counted upon to be vigorously so. He expects the anti-conscription forces to provide the necessary public sentiment to hold members of Congress in line.

☞ Majority Leader Halleck (R. Ind.) is another who is doubtfully opposed to UMT. Formerly an official of the Indiana department of the American Legion and having made speeches favoring conscription, he finds his present position in opposition somewhat difficult and may not hold to it under pressure. Representative Clarence J. Brown, a leading Republican policy-maker, is strongly opposed to UMT. He has recently reiterated his opposition before several luncheon clubs in his own district. Also Chairman Leo Allen of the House Rules Committee is opposed to universal training. Because of the favorable claimate in his committee some opponents of conscription have suggested that the Towe Bill, which was reported favorably to the House by the Military Affairs Committee, might be re-committed to the Rules Committee because of the limited number of persons and organizations permitted to testify against it at the hearing last spring. There is some question however as to the parliamentary aspects of such a procedure.

☞ As matters now stand, the Towe Bill has been approved by the Military Affairs Committee of the House, but the Rules Committee will determine when it reaches the floor for action. The subject is before the Senate Military Affairs Committee, but no action has been taken. Hearings may be instituted in December, but most observers hold this to be unlikely.

☞ The Presbyterian Church, USA, has initiated action with the Federal Council of Churches to have a committee of churchmen appointed equal in size and standing to the President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training to prepare a report on world security. It is reported that the Federal Council may assist in organizing such a commission unofficially.

* * *

* National Defense Director Milton Campbell of the American Legion told an Indianapolis audience on October 10, that the Legion will not press for action on UMT at a special session, but that he expects the bill to be passed early in the regular session in January. (Editor)

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

RACE RELATIONS SECRETARY CALLED

A further advance in human relations by the churches was marked when the Reformed and Evangelical Church recently called a Negro to serve on the staff of its Commission on Christian Social Action as secretary of race relations. The Rev. Jefferson Rogers, the new secretary, will serve the Reformed and Evangelical churches, a predominantly white communion, as preacher, speaker and leader in church and other groups seeking better understanding of intercultural relations.

* * *

EXCHANGE THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

Early in September 25 young European theological students—24 young men and one young woman—landed in New York to begin a year of study in American theological seminaries. Representing eight different countries, including Norway, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, France, Switzerland, and Indonesia, they will study in 13 different seminaries. Their studies in the U. S. are sponsored by Church World Service as a part of the program of religious rehabilitation of Europe.

* * *

A STONE INSTEAD OF BREAD

Despite the enthusiastic press dispatches sent back from the conference on hemispheric defense from Rio de Janeiro last August and September, and despite the ovation accorded President Truman upon the occasion of his appearance to deliver the closing address, reports filtering back indicate that all was not as enthusiastically unanimous as was represented. *Peace Action* quotes the *Washington Daily News* of August 19, to the effect that in other countries represented, as well as our own, the military seemed to be in control. "If the American delegation has its way," said the *Daily News*, "the conference will be a military conference, preparing the way for arming the Americas with U. S. weapons, if Congress approves." A dispatch to the Scripps-Howard press declared that some non-military delegates looked upon the procedure with genuine distress. A Panamanian delegate is quoted as saying that Central American nations are already being bled white by heavy military budgets to the neglect of more pressing needs. A Brazilian delegate reportedly said, "The army is the only political reality in Brazil today. It is strong enough. We need tractors to develop our agriculture, capital to develop our oil and mineral resources, more schools and better hospitals, but we do not need your guns and planes and tanks which might become obsolete before we have need for them."

* * *

HOW TO SEND FOOD PACKAGES TO BRITAIN
The reliable *Survey Graphic* (Oc-

Side-Lights On World Tensions

Walter W. Sikes

ONE OF THE NEWSPAPER correspondents covering the present sessions of the United Nations was admitted on some interesting conditions: He must not go anywhere in the United States except New York City and the headquarters of the United Nations. He can send back to his newspaper no reports or comments on anything except the United Nations. He must not make any speeches. Reason: He is the correspondent of a Communist journal.

Thus we pay the Communists back in their own coin. But Pierre Courtade is not a Russian. He is French. Besides, it is all very legal—and very like Russia.

EX-CHIEF OF PUBLIC RELATIONS of the Army Air University at Maxwell Field, Georgia resigned in protest to what he called, in his letter of official resignation to General Carl Spaatz, "the dangerously militaristic doctrines" being taught there in the

tober, 1947) carries a statement from Ferdinand Kuhn, a contributor to that magazine, to the effect that persons wishing to send food packages to aid needy families in Britain can do so, even if they have no contacts in that country. Packages can be sent to Mrs. Elsa Dunbar, Women's Voluntary Services, 41 Tothill St., London, S.W. 1, who will see that it gets into the hands of a needy family. An air mail letter should be sent to Mrs. Dunbar at the time of mailing the package. She will advise senders of the name and address of the person to whom the package is delivered. Packages must not weigh more than 22 pounds and should be marked "Unsolicited Gift" in order to avoid payment of duty and the necessity for the recipient to surrender precious ration points on its arrival. Staples, such as rice, lard, sugar or honey, dried fruits and tinned meats are acceptable.

* * *

CO-OP WINS AT GREENBELT

The Greenbelt Consumer's Cooperative shopping center at the Greenbelt housing project near Washington, recently the object of an attack by Congressman Ploeser and his Small Business Committee, on September 23 gave a decisive answer to efforts to destroy their enterprise. In a run-off election in which five co-op candidates were opposed by four anti-co-op candidates, all four persons elected were from the co-op slate. Mayor George Bauer, running for re-election, who testified against the co-op before the Ploeser committee, withdrew from the run-off.

Air University, which he characterized as a "phony educational institution."

Last October, when high-ranking officers of the institution asked him whether the public would support an "immediate attack upon Russia," he told them that it would not. But they informed him, he says, that they would carry on an undercover campaign to bring the air force officers to accept this policy and hope for a change of public opinion. Apparently this campaign has gone on, since he tells General Spaatz that official notes of faculty meetings contain discussions of the plan.

A NEW BROADWAY theatrical show has been generously praised by the critics. *Command Decision* is the dramatic fictional account of how a Lieutenant Colonel in charge of a heavy bomber command had to fight the arm chair brass hats, Congress, the press, the public and his own conscientious scruples to carry on his task. In the course of the play the author and director manage quite cleverly to boost the stock of the air forces (1) by lampooning Congress and Congressmen, (2) by charging the heavy toll of death to a prewar policy of "unpreparedness," (3) by condemning a free press which exercises its right to criticize the army command, (4) by ridiculing the morals of those who do not understand that promiscuous prostitution and heavy drinking are necessary for a successful army.

TO ESCAPE THE NECESSITY of admitting a Charleston, South Carolina Negro student, John H. WRIGHTEN, who asked for a court order enjoining the University of South Carolina from refusing to admit qualified students because of their race, the court observed that the state might "furnish no law school education to any persons of either the white or Negro race."

Although the court declined to issue the injunction, the presiding judge ruled that WRIGHTEN would be entitled to enter next year unless the state has in the meantime provided adequate facilities for legal education in its college for Negroes—or deprived its white students of the facilities they now have!

Thus South Carolina joins Missouri, Kentucky and Texas in being compelled by court decision either to abandon its policy of compulsory segregation or set up a duplicate system of higher education. The cost of prejudice comes high.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY of the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization, William H. Tuck, reports that, as one of twenty-one nations, the United

(Continued on next page)

States will be asked to receive 250,000 displaced persons within the next two years.

The Statton Bill, which would provide for the immigration of 100,000 of these persons, after careful screening, is still pigeonholed in Congress. Only public concern and action will overcome the apathy and opposition the measure has met.

EVENTS IN GREECE are significantly illumed by the report under a date line of September 28 from Athens by George Weller, foreign correspondent of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. He relates that the Greek government during July by mass arrests and deportation without warrant or trial sent some 8,000 citizens, chiefly intellectuals, into the Aegean islands. The charge of a communist "plot" has no supporting evidence. Weller asserts that not more than 200 or 300 were communists.

But, Weller predicts, many more of them soon will be. For they were sent where thousands of other exiles since the days of the fascist dictator Metaxas, have been students in "Marxist academies" where communists are busy converting liberals, with this assistance of the Greek government. The fact that the United States, under its "Truman Policy," appears to be involved in this, should have some meaning—but just what Mr. Weller does not say.

TWO HISTORIES WRITTEN by Merle R. Eppse, director of history at the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial College, have been adopted as textbooks by the Tennessee State Textbook Authority. This is the first time a textbook written by a Negro has been so adopted by a Southern state. Mr. Eppse is a member of the Lea Avenue Christian Church, Nashville.

And the Brooklyn, New York, Public Library fired Victor Backus, a white man, because he protested the racial discrimination policy of the library. The charges made by Mr. Backus have been sustained by the State Commission Against Discrimination under the recent state law.

In Richmond, Virginia, the Central Trades and Labor Council has recently been formed by the joining of 57 Negro and white local A. F. of L. unions.

When the thirty prominent Negro guests invited to join in the highly publicized banquet celebrating the Centennial of the Chicago Tribune observed that they were to be segregated in the seating plan, they walked out.

Sometimes its hard to tell just where that famous Mason and Dixon line runs.

Unions Turn to Co-ops

James A. Crain

Under the stress of high prices of food labor unions are turning to consumer cooperatives in such numbers that both union officials and co-op leaders are beginning to issue warnings of pitfalls which may be encountered by the over-enthusiastic. The CIO News of October 6 warned that consumer cooperatives call for experience, trained assistance and dependable advice, if sponsors are not to get their fingers badly burned.

It began when Ford Local 400, UAW-CIO, of Highland, Michigan decided to sell canned goods and other non-perishables in case lots to its members on Saturday, September 6. Customers stood in line for hours before the warehouse opened and the stock was quickly sold out down to the last case.

With the success of the experiment it was decided to call in co-op leaders for further advice. In consultation with the UAW executive board four Michigan cities—Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, and Lansing—were chosen for further experimentation. Presidents of the participating locals agreed to ask their members for a contribution of \$1 each to finance the projects. Soon the plan took fire in other cities. In St. Louis the CIO Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees announced that a store stocked with grocery staples and household appliances would be opened to combat the high cost of living. In North Carolina, CIO officials have announced that union co-ops will be opened at Elizabeth City and Laurinburg, handling food products, and later, hardware, furniture and other goods. The Los Angeles CIO Council has announced plans to open a union co-operative store and has distributed 200,000 leaflets to its members urging support of the venture. Other plans are announced by labor groups in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Virginia. The latter project will not be sponsored by labor groups, but by the Consumer Distribution Corporation founded by the late Edward A. Filene, millionaire Boston merchant, who set up an endowment of more than a million dollars to be used to establish a chain of consumer co-ops. The department store will be located in Arlington, just opposite Washington, D. C., where many government employees have their homes. It will have a capital of \$500,000, of which \$300,000 will be supplied by consumers of the Washington-Arlington area.

The alliance between the consumer cooperative movement and organized labor is a 'natural.' The vast majority

of organized labor believes in the American system of free enterprise. Their chief complaint is that our economic system is not free. Both prices and production are often controlled by those who stand to profit from such control. The consumer cooperative movement likewise stands for free enterprise and the capitalistic system. By returning all profits to the customer-owner it keeps the money in circulation and promotes the welfare of the people. A modest wage is paid to capital, the necessary costs of doing business are paid and modest reserves are established. The rest goes back to those from whom it was taken.

PROTESTANTS TO

DEFENDfrom P. 1

services and school lunch programs are carried on in sectarian schools as well as in public schools. Others reply that there is no opposition to social welfare services by the state to its citizens regardless of race or religion as long as these services are provided through public agencies and are not given as subsidies to religious groups.

A small committee under the chairmanship of Bishop Oxnam, with the assistance of Dr. Charles Morrison, Dr. J. M. Dawson, Dr. Louie D. Newton, Dr. Stanley I. Stuber, and others, will formulate plans for a permanent organization to be submitted to a subsequent meeting in St. Louis in the near future. The Disciples of Christ were represented by Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood, William J. Lineback, Robert Fangmeier, and James A. Crain.

I WAS HUNGRY.....from P. 1

tation of the Japanese dairy industry. They have been allocated to 16 breeding stations. Over many of the stalls a sign has been placed stating that the bulls were contributed by the Heifer Project Committee and in some instances it is stated that the gift came from the Christians of America.

Upon receipt of official information that 4,000,000 refugees from India and Pakistan are in emergency camps and in transit, with 250,000 sick, wounded or too weak to travel, Church World Service late in September rushed medical supplies to the danger areas. In response to a second request for food-stuffs, 100 tons of powdered milk, 10,000,000 vitamin tablets, 50 tons of cereals and a ton of hard candy were shipped at once. The separation of India into a Hindu state (India) and a Moslem state (Pakistan) has involved the transfer of many millions of persons from one to the other, due to the unwillingness of both Hindus and Moslems to live under alien religious domination.